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EDITORIAL

No substantial gains for the people in the recently held elections

Another reactionary electoral process was held. In the context of the continually worsening social crisis and intensifying contradictions among reactionaries, this process exposed with utmost clarity the rottenness and inutility of the ruling reactionary political system. Reactionary politicians and parties used violence, money, fraud and various means of deceiving the people in their contest for power.

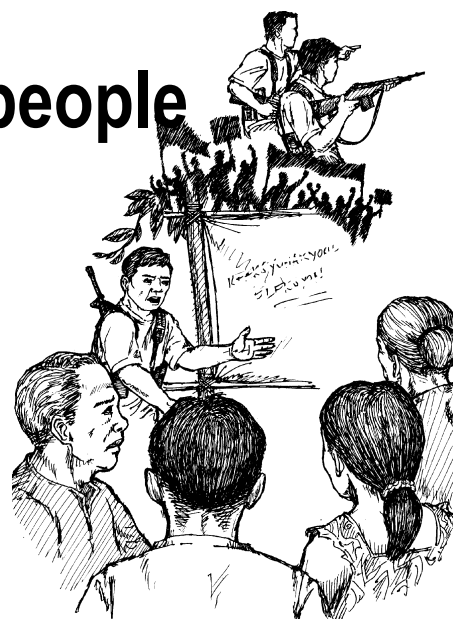
As in the past, the recently concluded process was used to conjure up the illusion that democracy exists in the country and hoodwink the people with demagogic promises, various charades and cash dole outs. It has turned out to be one of the dirtiest and most disorderly elections.

The 2001 electoral process was also one of the bloodiest in the country's history. As usual, the reactionaries used the recent elections as an extension of their violent contra-

dictions. The magnitude of hostilities in the elections mirrors the further intensification of their antagonisms. Progressive forces who participated in the elections also suffered severe brutalities.

While the reactionaries may have had a desire to use the elections to iron out their differences, the polls' outcome, whatever it may be, will be used as staging base for further maneuverings and violent power struggles.

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime's candidates are enjoying a slight lead in the elections for the Senate. Nonetheless, it turns out that reinforcements are forthcoming for the reactionary pro-Estrada opposition in the Senate, which remains strong. The Estrada camp has also made a strong showing in elections for the Congress and local government units. The two main camps of contending reactionary politicians and parties are in a frantic hustle and race to defraud the results of the recent elections and attain a more decisive lead against their rivals. This may cause turmoil and intensify their antagonisms.



The leadership of the Macapagal-Arroyo camp over the ruling state and system remains beleaguered. The process of prosecuting Estrada and company and putting them on trial still hangs in the balance. Along with this, the regime is now also trying to enter into compromises and cooperation with the Estrada camp. On the other hand, the Estrada camp and other anti-Macapagal-Arroyo reactionaries will use the positions they have won as launching pads to continue challenging and to repeatedly attempt power grabs against the Macapagal-Arroyo camp, through violent or underhanded, if not through legal means. In the face of all this, the revolutionary forces

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and people continue to clamor for the punishment of Estrada and his criminal co-conspirators. The revolutionary forces and the people will vigorously oppose the compromises and concessions now being given to Estrada by the regime. In the forthcoming period, the ruling regime and the entire ruling system's inutility to resolve the continuing and intensifying crisis and turmoil besetting reactionary politics will become pronounced.

THE PEOPLE HAVE NOT GAINED MUCH FROM THE RECENT ELECTIONS. Feudal and bureaucrat capitalist rule continue to hold in its grip all levels of government and the country's entire political system. Representatives of the reactionary ruling classes and their various camps and political parties enjoy a monopoly over victories and other advantages in such elections. Under the reactionary system, reactionary politicians dole out to the masses oodles of cash and other "gifts" that are mere table scraps. Undoubtedly, these reactionary politicians would amass much more from large-scale graft and plunder once they take their seats of power.

Through the strenuous advance of the democratic and progressive forces and the strengthening of the organized ranks of the masses, some progressive forces and representatives of people's organizations have gained a small opportunity to participate and win in the elections. Electoral and parliamentary struggles are part of the arsenal of revolutionaries. But these are secondary to revolutionary armed struggle, and also to the open mass movement.

The big number of votes garnered by Bayan Muna in the party-list election reflects the high prestige gained by the progressive forces. This is a result of their persistence and perseverance in the struggles to advance the people's interests and to oust Estrada. However, three representatives now permitted to sit in Congress is too small a number and not enough to crack the dominant position of the reactionary politicians, who espouse the interest of the ruling classes.

It is important to clarify the limitations faced by progressives working within the reactionary parliament and government. While the level of our revolutionary strength and power is still relatively low, decrepit and decadent politics will continue to prevail and hold the masses in its sway. There is very little space within the reactionary system to eradicate putrefaction and corruption in government, overhaul the system and realize reforms that would truly benefit the people. Besides, there are numerous obstacles, among them, dirty politicking, fascist attacks and anti-communist redbaiting against the progressive organizations and their leaders and members. During the entire period of the campaign, no less than 12 coordinators and volunteers of Bayan Muna were illegally arrested, kidnapped, threatened, harmed or killed by the military and police.

But electoral struggles and work within the reactionary parliament do carry importance for the progressive and democratic

Demands of Filipino workers under the new regime

Simultaneous with the worsening economic crisis, workers are sinking deeper into the quagmire of poverty. In spite of this, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime implements policies that oppress and impoverish workers. In accordance with imperialist “globalization”, liberalization, privatization and deregulation are persistently advanced. Contrary to the workers’ urgent demands, Macapagal-Arroyo has merely continued the anti-worker program of the ousted Estrada.

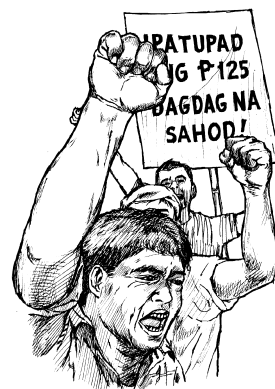
The minimum wage remains pegged at P250. This is woefully inadequate compared to the P418 (P501 in Metro Manila) needed daily by a family of six in order to live decently. Never-ending hikes in the prices of prime commodities have further reduced the workers’ already measly wages.

Widespread workers’ layoffs continue, as in the case of San Miguel Corp. and Toyota. In Central Luzon,

more than 10,000 workers were booted out from their jobs from January to March this year. This is three times bigger than the number of retrenchments in the region in the same period last year.

Picket lines are being assaulted without letup, as in the case of Cosmos, Mina’s Transit and Yokohama Tires Philippines, Inc. The rights of workers to unionize and freely express their demands are continuously being attacked.

IN THE People’s Dialogue with the NDFP in April, workers, through the Kilusang Mayo Uno, aired their demands. Other sectors and representatives of the Macapagal-Arroyo government participated in the dialogue. The workers proposed that the NDFP include the following demands in the agenda for the peace negotiations: ►



◄ forces. It is our fundamental and principal duty to expose the rottenness of the reactionary system and fight it simultaneously from within and from without, project the revolutionary alternative and point to the path that leads to it. Along with this, we may take advantage of the space and opportunity provided, in order to achieve tactical gains for the people and the progressive and democratic movement. This, while we maintain strict vigilance and resist being enticed and gobbled up by the rotten system.

IN YET OTHER WAYS, THE REVOLUTIONARY forces have gained from the conditions created by the recent reactionary elections. Various opportunities were used to promote the people’s issues and demands, advance the armed struggle, strengthen the revolutionary forces, expand the united front, and take advantage of and exacerbate rivalries among the reactionaries.

The New People’s Army launched selective tactical offensives. The revolutionary movement used the opportunity well to exercise and demonstrate its political power and implement revolutionary policies within its territories. This includes the levying of access fees on the entry of reactionary politicians into guerrilla fronts and zones. Rabidly reactionary politicians with blood debts to the revolutionary movement and people were punished. In this regard, it is necessary to prepare for attacks on the guerrilla fronts by the state’s armed forces. Macapagal-Arroyo and DND Secretary Angelo Reyes have already ordered the launching of attacks against the NPA after the elections. This is supposedly in retaliation for the punitive actions and collection of access fees implemented by the NPA during the election period.

Much more important to the revolutionary movement is the clari-

fication to the people that they could achieve no genuine and long-term significant gains from the recent elections. At every opportunity, we persevered in clarifying to the masses the revolutionary alternative to the existing turmoil and crisis of the reactionary political system. This will become even clearer after the elections, as the demagogic promises of politicians fade and the people are unable to see and realize any significant gains.

The people in the barrios and farms, factories and urban poor communities have long had their grievances. Their cries for genuine and fundamental solutions to the country’s basic problems, especially the worsening poverty and oppression of the poor, have grown louder.

Only the revolutionary movement is in a position to lead the people and bring them towards the path of genuine and lasting solutions to the country’s basic problems. **AB**

1. Adding P125 to the workers' daily wage and P3,000 to government employees' monthly salaries; abolishing regional wage boards and reestablishing the national minimum wage by scrapping the Wage Rationalization Act of 1989;
2. Putting a stop to mass layoffs and reinstating workers who were unjustly and illegally dismissed under the anti-worker Estrada administration;
3. Repealing Department Order No. 10 and banning contractualization, casualization, agency hiring and other employment arrangements that deny workers job security;
4. Abolishing the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the apprenticeship scheme and all other work arrangements that allow payment of wages below the minimum wage;
5. Dismissing all cases filed against unions and against workers and union leaders arrested and charged in the course of exercising and asserting their trade union and democratic rights;
6. Respecting the full exercise of workers' trade union and democratic rights (particularly in the country's economic zones); prosecuting government officials, police, military, and goons who violate workers' rights; repealing provisions on free ingress-egress, cooling-off period and other anti-strike and anti-union provisions in the Labor Code;
7. Repealing Executive Order 180 and recognizing government employees' rights to self-organize, collectively bargain and strike.
8. Scrapping or repealing various laws, orders and resolutions on, and putting a stop to, the collection of excessive fees levied on OFWs that only increase the burden on and intensify the commodification of migrant Filipinos.
9. Ratification by the senate and full implementation by the Philippine government of the United Nations Convention for the Protection of Migrants, their Families and their Rights and Welfare.
10. Punishing and heavily penalizing all agencies and individuals employing child workers in hazardous industries and those engaged in sex trafficking of Filipino women and children
11. Adopting an enabling law to implement the Constitutional principle of non-discrimination in employment; penalizing employers who hire on the basis of gender, civil status, age, religion and political connection; penalizing those who enforce anti-women hiring and human resource management policies;

12. Stopping the demolition of the homes of workers and other urban poor unless the security of their domicile and livelihood is assured;

13. Scrapping the business-oriented mass housing program of the previous Estrada administration and implementing a planned, comprehensive and sustainable housing program for workers and other urban poor. Repealing the anti-poor provisions of RA 279 or the Urban Development Housing Act (UDHA).

14. Ensuring the adequate and low-cost, if not free, provision of vital social services like water, electricity, schooling and hospitalization especially for the unemployed and other urban poor.

15. Discarding the antipeasant and anti-farm worker policy of misrepresenting land reform as the voluntary sale of land or corporate shares by landlords. Stopping the arbitrary and unjust displacement of farm workers and peasants due to land-use conversion and outright land grabbing by multinational firms and local businessmen and landlords. Raising the daily wages of farm workers and extending other economic assistance to them.



WORKERS played a crucial role in ousting the anti-worker Estrada regime. They were at the forefront of struggle even before Estrada's corruption was fully exposed. In January, a large number of workers trooped to EDSA to unite with other sectors against the corrupt president and his cohorts.

Workers and other sectors poured into the country's various cities such as Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu, Naga, Baguio and others to celebrate International Labor Day. While they expressed their demands, they also assailed the Estrada camp's obstinate attempts to return to power.

On April 12, the "*Kalbaryo ng Mamamayan sa Panahon ni Gloria*" caravan was launched and participated in by workers and other impoverished sectors. They challenged the new regime to resolve basic problems and recognize the democratic rights of the oppressed and suffering people.

Workers' economic and political struggles are continuously advancing. They are firm in fighting for their immediate and long-term demands. Their struggle advances in the face of a deepening crisis. As the exploitation of workers by capitalists and the regime intensifies, the determination of workers to struggle for their rights and welfare grows ever stronger. **AB**

Interview with Ka Roger

Following are excerpts from an email interview conducted in April by Delfin Mallari of the Philippine Daily Inquirer with Gregorio “Ka Roger” Rosal, National Spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines.



Delfin Mallari (DM): What has prodded the revolutionary movement, though it is not directly participating, to provide opportunities for its legal organizations to actively participate in the elections? In the past, you junked elections as a mere instrument of deception by the ruling class, but now you seem to have changed your views. What is behind this?

Ka Roger (KR): As with the past elections, the coming polls are controlled by the ruling classes. The reactionary nature of elections under existing conditions must be exposed. We must dispel any illusion that the polls can solve the country's basic problems.

The Party, the people's army and the underground revolutionary organizations and alliances, and even their cadres and forces whom the state considers illegal and devoid of the right to vote, do not participate in reactionary elections. What the revolutionary forces advocate are genuinely free elections under the democratic people's government.

Nonetheless, legal forms of struggle to fight for the national and democratic interests of the people are not contradictory, though they are secondary to armed methods of struggle. Thus, the Party considers the participation of progressive organizations and candidates in elections as a fine thing.

The few opportunities wherein progressive candidates and organizations, such as Bayan Muna, are able to participate significantly and show good prospects in the elections, result not from concessions granted them by reactionary elections but from the strengthening of the democratic mass movement.

Nevertheless, everyone must understand that even if progressives win positions, reactionaries will not allow the prevailing oppressive system to be replaced by a just and progressive one. In the final analysis, the most that progressive officials can do within the reactionary parliament is to advance the people's interests and expose the corruption of the ruling system and its inutility to address the demands of the oppressed and exploited masses.

DM: The collection of what you have termed as

“permit to campaign fees” has once more become prevalent in areas you control. There are some who believe that this is not a just practice of the NPA, especially now that you are supporting some parties and candidates.

Also in this regard, Ka Roger, are there occasions when you allow some candidates to campaign within areas under your control even if they do not seek permission?

KR: The collection of “permit to campaign fees” is a correct exercise of political power and state rights by the revolutionary movement. This is being implemented to defend the integrity of territories controlled by the people's democratic government.

This right is likewise used to bar rabid counter-revolutionaries and antipeople politicians from sowing deception and holding the reins of political power.

All politicians desiring to campaign within territories under the control of the people's democratic government must seek “permits to campaign”. But of course, we distinguish between reactionaries and friends. We do not collect “permit to campaign fees” from progressive candidates. This is part of the application of united front policy on issues pertaining to elections.

DM: It is also said that this practice of the NPA seems to push elected officials to steal from the government to recoup what they spent in the elections, including what they paid in “permit to campaign fees”. Ka Roger, may I ask you for an explanation on this matter?

KR: The truth is that the amount shelled out by corrupt and reactionary politicians for their “permit to campaign” comprises a very small percentage of their overall election expenditures. In our experience, whether the NPA collects from these corrupt and reactionary politicians or not, they will nonetheless use their positions in the bureaucracy to amass wealth and use their privileges for various gains. Thus, they are ready to spend such large sums and even kill each other, just to attain power.

DM: Groups on the other side, particularly those identified with the late Popoy Lagman, say that

Resumption of NDFP-GRP peace talks successful



The reopening of formal negotiations between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) from April 27 to 30 in Oslo, Norway was a success.

Comrade Luis Jalandoni led the NDFP Negotiating Panel, which also included Comrades Fidel V. Agcaoili and Coni Ledesma. Former Justice Sec. Silvestre Bello III headed the GRP panel, which included Agrarian

Reform Sec. Hernani Braganza and Atty. Rene Sarmiento.

Discussions during the resumption of the peace negotiations were focused on the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law or CAR-HRIHL and proposed goodwill and confidence-building measures by both panels. Also tackled was the conduct of discussions on the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER), the next topic in the substantive

agenda of the peace talks.

AMID tortuous discussions, the NDFP demanded the immediate implementation of the CARHRIHL in order for it to serve as a weapon in the hands of the Filipino people against human rights violations. In this regard, the NDFP demanded that the GRP execute the following provisions immediately: (1) release of political prisoners; (2) indemnification of victims of martial law; (3) review and repeal of repressive laws; and (4) putting an end to ►

◄ with your current participation in the elections, through Bayan Muna, they have once again been proven correct, as they have long been participating in elections. In this sense, they say that you are mere copycats.

KR: The use of, and the weight given by, the Party and the national-democratic revolutionary movement to elections and parliamentary methods of struggle are radically different. Even as the Party recognizes them as secondary forms of struggle, the Party and revolutionary movement strictly consider elections and parliamentary forms of struggle within the framework of protracted people's war and armed struggle as the main form of struggle.

On the other hand, the revisionist renegades like Popoy have swung like pendulums from ultra-Left insurrectionism to Right parliamentarism. They are engaging in wishful thinking if they believe that the reactionary ruling classes will allow state power to be handed over to the exploited and oppressed classes merely through elections.

DM: Although I realize that there is no concrete basis to stop using such a tactic in the struggle, I would still like to know from you as the Party and the army's spokesperson, how you view your experience with the two prisoners of war, Martin and Buan.

KR: The long period in which the NPA held in its custody Chief Inspector Martin and Major Buan shows the NPA's ability to hold prisoners of war for an indefinite period in accordance with international humanitarian

law, the rules of war and its own policies on the humane treatment of prisoners. This, despite incessant rescue and regular operations launched by the AFP and PNP against the NPA and its mass base.

The death of PCI Martin and the release of Major Buan demonstrate through the two differing developments that the safe and orderly release of prisoners of war can be effected only through negotiations.

DM: How do you view the recent developments regarding the ongoing peace talks?

KR: The basic changes desired by the Party, NPA and the entire revolutionary movement cannot be achieved without armed struggle and its constitution as the main form of struggle.

The Party, the NPA and the revolutionary movement are serious in entering the peace talks with the objective of drawing attention to the basic problems of the Filipino people, which lie at the root of the current armed conflict. Nonetheless, the maneuvers and dirty tactics of the militarists, which include prematurely raising the issue of a "national ceasefire" are damaging to the spirit and orderly flow of the peace negotiations.

We can expect the peace talks to go through many twists and turns. There also lies the possibility that the talks will be stalled and will fail, especially since the militarists within the Macapagal-Arroyo government are aggressive and dominant. They are the main threats to the peace talks. **AB**

Starting with this issue, "Reports from Correspondents" will be a regular section of AB. It will feature experiences of revolutionary forces in advancing armed struggle, agrarian revolution, mass struggles, united front building and other lines of work. All Party units down to the basic level are urged to share their experiences in working among the peasantry, workers, urban poor, national minorities, women, youth and children and other democratic sectors.

Resisting the plunder of the Cordillera's resources

Led by the Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA), the valiant history of the Cordillera people in defending their ancestral lands, lives, livelihood and resources and in advancing the struggle for national liberation and democracy was celebrated on the 17th Cordillera Day anniversary. Likewise, the New People's Army and the various mass organizations under the Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF) held celebrations inside the guerrilla zones. The celebrations were launched on April 24 in Mankayan, Benguet.

In a statement, the CPDF hailed the appropriateness of this year's theme for Cordillera Day: "Resist the plunder of the indigenous people's land and resources! Advance the politics of change to achieve the people's aspirations!"

The CPDF said that despite the ascension to power of a new president, the reactionary state continues to trample on the Cordillera peoples' right to self-determination. As Filipinos, they are weighed down by the three basic problems of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. As national minorities, they also bear the particular burden of national oppression.

There has been no change in the problems faced by

Cordillerans and the entire Filipino people. The CPDF said that the enemies of the Cordillera people and the entire Filipino people have not, for a single moment, ceased to exploit and impoverish them. In essence, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime continues along the direction set by all previous regimes.

The CPDF assailed the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's reactionary dual tactics. On the one hand, Macapagal-Arroyo ingratiates herself with the Cordillera people by going to certain town centers in the region and implementing impact projects. On the

other hand, the military under the new regime has been sowing terror without letup. The reign of terror has been most intense in Kalinga and Abra.

The CPDF cited the recent harassment in Mankayan of people's organizations resisting the operations of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., a corporation owned by imperialists and the comprador bourgeoisie. Despite the widespread destruction these have wrought on the Cordillera people, the regime is continuing with the construction of the San Roque Dam and the implementation of other policies and programs that are anti-people and anti-national minority.

On the other hand, the CPA as the biggest and ►



◄ destructive military operations and campaigns.

The NDFP also declared that it would accept the GRP's implementation of the following as goodwill and confidence-building measures: (1) a P125 across-the-board nationwide increase in workers' wages; (2) return of internal refugees to their respective homes; (3) approval and implementation of EO 10 that prohibits huge fishing boats, especially foreign ones, from municipal waters; and others.

THE Reciprocal Working Com-

mittee for the SER conducted a preliminary meeting. Both sides agreed to form their respective subcommittees. The latter may hold informal meetings and conduct separate or joint public hearings in the Philippines in preparation for the actual meetings for the SER.

The NDFP and GRP have also agreed to hold the subsequent series of talks on June 9-15. Based on the warm reception and experience of Norway in sponsoring peace negotiations, both sides affirmed the pro-

posal that the next round of negotiations be held there.

THE NDFP anticipates much difficulty in advancing the peace talks. According to its chairperson Comrade Mariano Orosa, implementing the CARHRIHL and forging the CASER are definitely more serious and more complicated than the previous talks. On the other hand, he said that the people, who suffer from extreme poverty, exploitation and oppression can reap more significant gains from the negotiations. **AB**

basic masses and other sectors in the Cordillera is at the forefront of waging struggles against antipeople and anti-national minority schemes such as mines, dams, logging, geothermal plants, mega-tourism and other projects that destroy and deplete the region's natural resources. It leads in raising the people's consciousness to make them more aware of their rights.

Along with the burgeoning democratic mass movement that continues to gain strength year by year, the CPDF perseveres in waging people's war, a just revolutionary war that empowers the people to decide on their economic, political and socio-cultural destiny.

◀ most organized legal democratic alliance of the

The national-democratic mass movement of the Cordillera people, both armed and unarmed, can harken to the rich and significant lessons learned from the countless struggles of the Cordillera people—the struggle against the Chico Dam, Celophyl Resources Corp., San Roque Dam, against mines, against militarization in the barrios and many others. In applying lessons from these struggles, errors are avoided, effective tactics in strengthening the mass movement and the united front are formulated and bigger victories achieved.

The CPDF called for perseverance by the Cordillera people and the support of the rest of the Filipino people to raise the struggle for national self-determination to a higher level. Said the CPDF: "Let the sacrifices of our ancestors and the blood of our martyrs serve as an enduring inspiration for us all". **AB**

People in Central Visayas vigorously joined anti-Estrada struggle

In unity with the entire people, the revolutionary movement and people of Central Visayas celebrated the victorious ouster of the Estrada regime in January. Simultaneous with the humongous mobilization at EDSA and different urban centers of the Philippines in the same period, progressive forces and the people of the region launched gigantic mass protests in a span of four days. These protest actions surpassed in size and intensity, protests launched in the region in the last few days of the Marcos dictatorship.

According to *Pakigbisog*, the revolutionary mass paper in Central Visayas, the gathering at the center of Cebu City peaked at 50,000 in the afternoon of January 19. Like the

AFP and PNP leadership, local police and military forces, as well as a number of politicians, were encouraged by the size of the mobilization to turn their backs on Estrada and his regime.

These gigantic demonstrations were made possible due to thoroughgoing preparations by the revolutionary and progressive forces. They forged the broadest unity of the people through common and coordinated mobilizations and formal and informal organizations which eventually led to ever growing mobilizations on the city, provincial and regional levels, simultaneous with national mobilizations.

The revolutionary forces in the region are at present persevering in consolidating the victories achieved in the broad anti-Estrada front. Concurrently, the revolutionary forces



continue to advance the struggle against the Estrada clique to its logical conclusion.

In this regard, the Arnulfo Ortiz Regional Operational Command of the New People's Army gave assurances of its capability to launch the necessary tactical offensives to punish the most notorious cohorts of the Estrada regime in the region. Among them are Estrada's co-conspirators in jueteng and other criminal syndicates and those involved in large-scale corruption and anomalies from kickbacks and bribes given by pro-imperialist projects in the region. Under the Macapagal-Arroyo regime, the Party, people's army and revolutionary forces in the region ►

Tactical offensives continue in Bicol

No less than 19 separate tactical offensives were launched by the New People's Army in Bicol from January to April 2001. These included confiscation of weapons and punitive operations against rabid counter-revolutionaries and bad elements. A defensive situation was also transformed into an offensive.

According to correspondence reports sent by the Romulo Jallores Command (RJC) to *Ang Bayan*, small but victorious tactical offensives are continuously being launched.

On April 20, Florencio Muñoz, former mayor of Camalig, was punished. Foremost among his crimes were building an intelligence network against the revolutionary people and movement that resulted in the death of a number of NPA fighters and avidly supporting the establishment of the Palanog Cement Factory, in exchange for a large sum of money.

On April 11, NPA fighters raided the house of a policeman in Barangay Dalupaon, Pasacao, Camarines Sur. SPO3 Edmundo Silapan Mendoza of the San Fernando Municipal Police Station was captured. The NPA, however, released him immediately after explaining matters to him. A 9 mm pistol, three magazines

and rounds of ammunition, M16 magazines and other military equipment were confiscated from him.

On March 21, comrades who had been encircled by a section of the 22nd IB Rapid Deployment Force in Barangay Bololo, Guinobatan, Albay, were able to make a safe retreat. Despite being in a defensive position, they were able to fight back and gain the upper hand. One enemy soldier was killed and three others were wounded.

On February 17, the NPA meted the death penalty on Beverly Maslog in Legazpi City. SPO1 Jose Quoremces, who was aboard the same tricycle as Maslog, was also killed. Maslog was active in attacking the revolutionary movement. She betrayed and caused harm to several comrades and civilians. Through a radio program in Albay, she actively called for the surrender of comrades and sowed intrigue against the movement. She also used the names of NPA leaders to collect extortion money for the PNP.

Following are some of the small tactical offensives launched in Bicol, aside from those already reported by **AB**:

1. Sniping of Sgt. Roy Brojada of the 16th IB in Barangay Bulacao, Gubat, Sorsogon on

NPA raids Camarines Sur municipal hall

RED FIGHTERS ATTACKED THE MUNICIPAL hall of Gainza, Camarines Sur at noon of April 27.

Women guerrillas pointed their guns at Gainza police chief Insp. Ricardo Nocos and ordered him and other employees to lie facing down. The NPA confiscated communication radios from the municipal office.



Before launching the attack, the fighters were also able to seize an M16 and a 9 mm pistol from the houses of two policemen.

March 11;

2. Ambush of CAFGU member Herardo Salceda in Barangay Buyo, Manito, Albay, and confiscation of his short fire-arm;

3. Confiscation of a .22 pistol, a magazine, 19 rounds of ammunition and a telescope from Bo. Cap. Yolanda Imperial of Bliss, Monbon-Irosin, Sorsogon on January 19;

4. On the same day, seizure of weapons from TSgt. Jaime Borigas, Jr., assigned to the Southern Command in Cagayan de Oro but a resident of Bagsangan, Irosin. Confiscated from him were a .45 and a .22. **AB**

◀ will continue to advance protracted people's war and strengthen the revolutionary united front and mass movement.

The revolutionary forces in the region pay urgent attention to the consolidation of youth activists and their organizations which are products of the anti-Estrada

movement. Thus, more and more activists from the peasant, worker and urban poor youth as well as the studentry are encouraged to join the new-democratic revolution. The revolutionary forces recognize the importance of continuously recruiting the youth, particularly the educated youth, into the people's army for the continued advance of protracted people's war. **AB**



NEWS OF STRUGGLE

MGC punishes criminal politicians

The Melito Glor Command (MGC) of the NPA-Southern Tagalog punished Marcial Punzalan, congressman of the 2nd district of Quezon, on the evening of May 12 in Tiaong, Quezon. Also killed was his bodyguard and a military officer. Tirso "Ka Bart" Alcantara, spokesperson of the MGC immediately issued a statement saying that it was the NPA that imposed the death penalty on Punzalan. He was punished for being a rabid counterrevolutionary and for being the protector of a drug syndicate in the province.

Meanwhile, on the afternoon of May 7, the MGC also punished Cesar Platon, mayor of Tanauan City, Batangas. According to Ka Bart, Platon was punished for his criminal and counterrevolutionary cases, including drug trafficking and drug pushing, carnapping, gunrunning and human rights violations.

Companies involved in Davao quarry operations punished

NPA fighters burned quarrying equipment of the North American Crusher and Agon Constructions in Barangay Gumalang, Baguio District, Davao City on May 20. The punitive action was carried out because of their managements' continued refusal to observe taxation policies of the revolutionary movement.

3 AFP soldiers killed in Surigao ambush

Red fighters killed a sergeant and two corporals of the Philippine Army in an ambush on April 29 in Sitio Magtuyom, Bislig, Surigao del Sur. The AFP troops were involved in destructive military operations in the area.

Negros Oriental warlords punished by the NPA

The NPA imposed the death penalty on Jose Cardenas, vice mayor and mayoralty candidate of Canlaon, Negros Oriental, his sister Councilor Jessica Cardenas and four others on April 27.

According to a statement by Bayani Obrero, spokesperson of the Gatmaitan Operational Command

of the NPA, the punishment of the Cardenas siblings was demanded by the broad masses of the people of Canlaon City. He said that Cardenas was found guilty of killing, harassing and arresting peasants who were victims of landgrabbing; illegal logging; gunrunning; drug trafficking; and suppression of people's rights.

Comrade Obrero added that the Cardenas siblings sowed terror in Canlaon by using armed goons, controlling the military and police and issuing firearms to barangay officials, barangay tanods and informers.

The Cardenas siblings were punished in Sitio Pinamintigan, Barangay Budlasan, Canlaon City.

NPA clarifies punitive actions in Northern Mindanao



THE FR. FRANK NAVARRO COMMAND (FFNC) of the NPA-Northern Mindanao Region recently explained the basis of the death penalty imposed on Mayor Lope Asis of Bayugan, Agusan del Sur on April 17 and Oscar Torralba, former mayor of La Paz town in the same province, on April 21. In separate statements sent to **AB**, Ka Dagohoy Bonifacio, FFNC spokesperson, cited their crimes one by one.

According to Comrade Bonifa-

cio, Asis was guilty of serious crimes against the people of Bayugan and against the revolution. From the time he was a soldier until he became mayor, he was active in counter-revolutionary campaigns. He initiated the setting up of an intelligence network and maintained abusive elements of the CAFGU. He supported ruthless military operations, including the bombing of Bayugan.

Comrade Bonifacio added that Asis profited immensely from the illegal drugs business. He said that, in fact, Asis was a big time drug

pusher not only in Bayugan but in the Caraga Region. He was also a warlord. He coddled armed goons and condoned abusive policemen in Bayugan. As mayor, Asis also stole a lot from public funds.

The FFNC also punished Oscar Torralba for the following reasons: ordering the death of Fr. Mark Estorba who exposed Torralba's illegal logging activities in 1988 in Butuan City; the massacre of the Villahermosa family in a barrio in La Paz that was targeted for landgrabbing by Torralba; and the killing of the municipal treasurer of La Paz after he divulged evidence and stood as witness against anomalies committed by Torralba in the town. **AB**